



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
KC FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Jewell D. Saunders, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On May 19, 2003, **Saunders** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Saunders** admitted to illegally possessing a Beretta .22 caliber pistol on Feb. 26, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Saunders** has two 1997 criminal felony convictions for robbery and armed criminal action.

Saunders was initially charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on March 5, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow